

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



Congratulations to Lawrence Sesay of CITS on the birth of his new daughter!

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Wednesday, 29 October 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Local News

Raped, Forced to Eat Human Flesh... / *Standard Times* Page 3

Kabbah Recruited Liberian Rebels / *Standard Times* Page 4

International News

Taylor's Case Heats Up / *The Analyst* Pages 5-6

Prosecution Says Taylor Can Testify in Person / *The News* Pages 7-8

Prosecution Says Taylor Can Testify in Person / *The Independent* Page 9

Report from The Hague / *BBC World Service Trust* Pages 10-11

Cross-Examination of 76th Prosecution Witness Gibril Sesay... / *BBC World Service Trust* Pages 12-14

Raped, Forced to Eat Human Flesh, Injected With Cocaine... / *BBC World Service Trust* Page 15

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries / *UNMIL* Pages 16-18

US trial in Alleged Liberian Torture Wrapping Up / *Associated Press* Page 19

"Taylor Ransacked, Looted Media Houses" / *The News* Pages 20-21

Confirmation of the Commission of War Crimes and Torture... / *The Liberian Journal* Pages 22-25

Standard Times
Wednesday, 29 October 2008

Raped, forced to eat human flesh, injected with cocaine, committed murder

...woman tells court

BY MARIAMA KHAI FORNAH

A young Sierra Leonean woman captured by rebels during the January 6, 1999 invasion of Freetown has testified to being raped, forced to eat human flesh, injected with cocaine, and made to commit unlawful killing.

Testifying at the trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, Akiatu Tholley said she escaped to safety with an unwanted pregnancy. She identified her captor as Colonel James of the former Liberian rebel group, ULIMO. The prosecution witness said that Kamajors civil militiamen killed in battle by the rebels were cooked and sometimes made into bar-

becue and given to civilians as meal. She said she reluctantly participated in eating the heart of a Kamajors. Prosecution Lawyer Brenda Hollis asked the witness what happened to those who refused to eat the rebels' human meal to which she replied, "if anybody refused eating it, that person would be killed". She said when she initially refused to eat it they beat her up and threatened to kill her.

Akiatu said that Captain James, the rebel who captured her in Wellington in the east of Freetown, forced her into marriage. The witness said she attempted to escape but was captured by some rebel boys. Her rebel husband boiled marijuana and gave it to her and injected her with cocaine and was sent on mission with some rebel boys and she unwillingly shot and

killed a woman because she refused to join them, Akiatu told the court. They kidnapped the slain woman's two children to carry their loads for them to Masiaka, outside Freetown. The witness said that two women who attempted to escape were recaptured, tied, and marked on their breasts the letters "AFRC and RUF", using a razor blade. Under cross-examination, Akiatu confirmed that cannibalism was common among the rebels. She lamented that the rebels destroyed her future and that she suffered three miscarriages, and was forced to eat human flesh - something as a Muslim she would never forget. Akiatu said despite Issa Sesay's warning to the rebels not to loot and rape, they looted and raped with impunity.

*Courtesy:
BBC World Service Trust*

Standard Times
Wednesday, 29 October 2008

Kabbah recruited Liberian rebels

...Defence Lawyer claims

*BY MARIAMA KHAI FORNAH
IN THE HAGUE*

The defence in the trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor has said that former Sierra Leone president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and his Government recruited Liberians who fought alongside his forces. Defence lawyer, Morris Anyah said Mr Kabbah admitted to the recruitment of the Liberians. Mr. Anyah read out in court what he said were testimonies Mr Kabbah made to the before his country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission admitting to the recruitment of Liberians into the Sierra Leone security apparatus.

The document quoted Mr. Kabbah as saying that fighters loyal to the Liberian dissident group, ULIMO, under the command of one Brigadier

David Livingstone Bropleh were incorporated into the Sierra Leone security forces and renamed Special Task Force. Anyah asked the 72nd Prosecution witness, Alpha Jalloh if he knew that those who amputated him on January 18, 1999 were ULIMO fighters. The witness denied knowing which faction they fought for but stressed that they were Liberian soldiers. Continuing from the TRC document, Anyah quoted former president Kabbah as saying that Brigadier Bropleh later fled Freetown with the AFRC junta forces, and that the Liberian commander later fought against ECOMOG troops. The defence lawyer went on to say that Bropleh's forces "played an active role in all the attacks that displaced ECOMOG and government troops in such places as Koidu, Makeni,

Kamakwie and Lunsar" as well supported the January 6, 1999 attack on Freetown. 73rd Prosecution witness, Samuel John who had previously testified in the AFRC case in Freetown was only presented to the Defence for cross-examination. 74th prosecution witness, Akiatu Tholley said the rebels who entered Freetown on January 6, 1999 flogged and dragged her until she lost unconsciousness. She said the rebels entered a church and raped many of the displaced girls and women. Prosecution Lawyer Brenda Hollis asked Akiatu to explain what the rebels did to her. "Well at the time we were in the church, James forced me. He raped me and he damaged me" she said. Asked what she meant by "damaged me", the witness said she needed sometime, apparently to stabilise her emotions.

Courtesy:

BBC World Service Trust

The Analyst (Liberia)
 Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Strleaf, along with Representatives Johnson (far left) and Saah

TAYLOR'S CASE HEATS UP

-Court Flies 10 Witnesses To Europe; Says Taylor Can Testify In Person

TIt's more than a year since Charles Taylor was bundled up and sent to The Hague to face the 11-count indictment for war crimes and crimes against humanity brought against him by the Special Hybrid Court for Sierra Leone. The case had been in out of court docket on legal technicalities raised by both prosecution and defense counsels. One point of contention was whether Taylor can face the court and defend himself. Now the prosecution is loosening up, guardedly, and there are indications that both sides are ready to decide Taylor's fate. **The Analyst Staff Writer** has been looking at journalist Joseph Cheeseman's interview with the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp.

Contd on page 2



Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Stephen Rapp



TAYLOR'S CASE HEATS UP

The Chief Prosecutor of the Sierra Leone's hybrid Special Court, Stephen Rapp, said Charles Taylor can defend himself in court provided he is willing to testify first as "first witness".

The chief prosecutor, who claimed that there is three times more evidence to convict Mr. Taylor than in any other war crimes case he had ever prosecuted, said the prosecution was ready to end the Taylor debacle.

According to him, the requirement for Mr. Taylor to testify first as "first witness" prior to appearing in his own defense was a legal procedure adopted by the Special Court from the English Criminal Rule of which he said the defense was well versed.

"This is a Rule that the Court has. It's a Rule that actually is the same as that in the English system in which Mr. Griffiths practices, but to some extent it's to make sure that the Accused doesn't mould his story depending on what others have said in his Defence case. He has to put it on himself first. But it's the Rule, we follow the Rules, and we're looking forward to seeing Mr. Taylor in the box if that's his decision,"

Prosecutor Rapp reportedly told special court reporter Joseph Cheeseman in the interview.

As evidence of the prosecution's readiness to convict Mr. Taylor, Mr. Rapp confirmed defense counsels' allegation that the Special Court has been spending a fortune to ferry witnesses to The Hague.

He said the court may have spent more than the US \$20,000.00 per person the defense has alleged the prosecution spent for the transportation and welfare of the witnesses.

"Well certainly, it may be more than that. I mean when you deal with the fact that some of these people are injured and have serious health problems and sometimes have to have a family escort with them.

"The Court, however, has negotiated a very reasonable fare with an airline that brings these people to Europe, so we do it on a cost-efficient basis.

And there is a safe house where there are beds and staffing and everything else. But it certainly costs money to the Court to present this kind of testimony," the Special Court chief prosecutor said.

He said the court had to resort to presenting witnesses physically in court after the defense opposed to the presentation of witness testimony through video link.

"So we're doing it because we have to, and it's our obligation, it's the mandate, it's my sworn duty to prove this case with the best evidence that I can and prove it according to the Rules," he said.

The defense, though, was not satisfied with the prosecution's justification for the use of such huge amount on witnesses, arguing that the money used to ferry the witnesses and lodge them could have been better used as reparation to the poor people of Sierra Leone.

"Well we care a lot about reparation, and we're looking for ways that we hope to be able

to pursue Mr. Taylor's assets to provide reparation to victims.

"The money that the Court has used is money that has been obtained from justice funds from countries that want to see international justice succeed. These aren't funds that go to development projects; indeed there are wide development projects in Sierra Leone that deal with victims. Recently the UN peace building Commission donated three million dollars to the Victim Reparation Fund. Not enough has been done in that area, but it's our position always that it's important that justice be done," Rapp said.

On the defense counsel's description of the prosecution's so-called "compelling evidence" as "rubbish", the chief prosecutor said the language used by the defense was "hard to respond to".

"This evidence of these human beings and what they went through, and the evidence that we presented from one end to the other of the link between

Charles Taylor and the war in Sierra Leone is the absolute opposite of rubbish," he said.

He said while there may be inconsistencies amongst testimonies due to the circumstances under which witnesses survived, the testimonies, by and large, corroborated in substantial ways.

"Now Mr. Griffiths may be familiar with cases in London where police come in with a neatly-typed report and everything is detailed and on closed-circuit cameras, and there's a certain quality of evidence sometimes in those cases, but you get into a situation that I've dealt with in Sierra Leone, and before in Rwanda, in situations where thousands of people are murdered, where millions of people are displaced, where whole communities and institutions are torn apart, in societies that already suffer from underdevelopment, where witnesses don't wear

watches, they don't tell time by calendars, and obviously there's going to be some inconsistencies in their testimony.

"That's maybe what he's talking about that sometimes a person says it was three men and other they say it's four men. But essentially their evidence, as we have said, is extremely compelling, and when you add it all up and look at all the ways in which it's corroborated and the network and the pattern that exists here, this is certainly in my experience at the international level, the most compelling case that I've ever seen at least three times stronger than cases that I've seen presented in other international tribunals.

"But obviously it's going to be up to the Judges in terms of guilt or innocence and that'll follow the presentation of Mr. Taylor's own defence," he said.

The News (Liberia)
 Tuesday, 28 October 2008

PROSECUTION SAYS TAYLOR CAN TESTIFY IN PERSON

By Joseph Cheeseman

The Prosecution in the trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor says he can testify in his case if he so wishes. Special Court prosecutor, Stephen Rapp says the English Criminal Rule adopted by the Special Court will be applied if Mr. Taylor wants to testify. So what does the English law says about a criminal defendant wishing to testify in his own case? A question Joseph Cheeseman put to Mr Rapp.

RAPP: Under our Rules, however, it is important to note that if the Accused testifies, he must testify as the first witness in his case...

CHEESEMAN: *He must testify first.*



Special Court prosecutor, Stephen Rapp with Former President Charles Taylor

RAPP: Yes

CHEESEMAN: *Why is that important?*

RAPP: Well this is a Rule that the Court has. It's a Rule that actually is the

same as that in the English system in which Mr. Griffiths practices, but to some extent it's to make sure that the

Cont'd on page 6

PROSECUTION SAYS

Accused doesn't mould his story depending on what others have said in his defence case. He has to put it on himself first. But it's the Rule, we follow the Rules, and we're looking forward to seeing Mr. Taylor in the box if that's his decision.

CHEESEMAN: *Mr. Griffiths estimated that you brought ten crime base witnesses here at the rate of \$20,000 United States dollars. How true is this information?*

RAPP: Well certainly, it may be more than that. I mean when you deal with the fact that some of these people are injured and have serious health problems and sometimes have to have a family escort with them. The Court, however, has negotiated a very reasonable fare with an airline that brings these people to Europe, so we do it on a cost-efficient basis. And there is a safe house where there are beds and staffing and everything else. But it certainly costs money to the Court to present this kind of testimony. At one point we moved to allow witnesses to appear by video link, but the Defence objected to that. So we're doing it because we have to, and it's our obligation, it's the mandate, it's my sworn duty to prove this case with the best evidence that I can and prove it according to the Rules.

CHEESEMAN: *You described your evidence as compelling, as convincing. Mr. Griffiths has described your evidence as rubbish.*

RAPP: It's hard to respond to that kind of language. This evidence of these human beings and what they went through, and the evidence that we presented from one end to the other of the link between Charles Taylor and the war in Sierra Leone is the absolute opposite of rubbish. Now Mr. Griffiths may be familiar with cases in London where police come in with a neatly-typed report and everything is detailed and on closed-circuit cameras, and there's a certain quality of evidence sometimes in those cases, but you get into a situation that I've dealt with in Sierra Leone, and before in Rwanda, in situations where thousands of people are murdered, where millions of people are displaced, where whole communities

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CHEESEMAN: *Then Mr. Griffiths also said that the money spent to bring these people here, you should have used that money as reparation to the poor people of Sierra Leone.*

RAPP: Well we care a lot about reparation, and we're looking for ways that we hope to be able to pursue Mr. Taylor's assets to provide reparation to victims. The money that the Court has used is money that has been obtained from justice funds from countries that want to see international justice succeed. These aren't funds that go to development projects; indeed there are wide development projects in Sierra Leone that deal with victims. Recently the UN peace building Commission donated three million dollars to the Victim Reparation Fund. Not enough has been done in that area, but it's our position always that it's important that justice be done.

The Independent (Liberia)

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

NEWS ANALYSIS

PROSECUTION SAYS TAYLOR CAN TESTIFY IN PERSON

By Joseph Cheeseman



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor

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BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Report from The Hague

As the Prosecution of the Special of the Special Court for Sierra Leone gradually closes in on the conclusion of its side of Charles Taylor's trial, crime base witnesses brought to The Hague continue to tell horrible tales of their war experiences. Mr Abraham Fofana, a 60-year-old former businessman now testifying against Charles Taylor, said both of his hands were amputated, and all of his first set of children killed.

CHEESEMAN: The Prosecution 75th witness, Mr. Abraham Fofana, told the court today Tuesday his first set of children, Mohammed, Kiadiatu and Dauda, and his aunt were set ablaze in a house in the Sierra Leonean town of Paema.

Fofana said after burning his children to death, the rebels gave him and four other men heavy loads to carry to Tombodu where he was amputated. Fofana told the Judges before the rebels amputated them, they witnessed 53 people killed in a house set on fire in Tombodu.

WITNESS: All the doors were locked. They put petrol on the house. We could hear people screaming in the house while the house was burning and the house burnt down completely and there was silence. And we who were tied to the orange tree were still there listening to the screaming right up to the end when there was silence.

CHEESEMAN: Mr. Fofana wiped his tearful eyes with the remains of his amputated hands as he sat directly before the Judges and said after the rebels burnt the 53 people alive, Rebel Commander Staff Alhaji gave orders that the five of them previously tied to an orange tree be amputated.

WITNESS: He said the five of us were supposed to go with the reports to Tejan Kabbah because we had voted for him. So because of that he needed our hands – two hands each. And indeed he did it. He amputated our hands, two each. Rambo, whose duty was to cut hands, he took the mortar. I was the first person. I was untied and taken close to the mortar. Oh God! Wherein he said, "Rambo, you are going to cut off these men's hands" and he went and took the mortar. Both of them were cut off. These are the hands.

CHEESEMAN: The witness testified that three of his friends amputated bled profusely and dropped as they made their way to the ECOMOG Base.

Charles Taylor's Defence lawyer Morris Anyah pointed out inconsistencies in Mr. Fofana's evidence. Mr. Fofana told the Judges his three children were burnt alive in the town of Paema. But the Defence team played in open court a video recording of an interview held with the witness at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown after his amputation. The video told a different story about Mr. Fofana's children. Mr. Fofana spoke Krio in the video so he's being interpreted.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Ibrahim Fofana, Mr. Ibrahim Fofana, where are you from?

WITNESS: Where? Kono.

INTERVIEWER: Where are your family members, your children, your wife?

WITNESS: Well, I left them in the bush.

INTERVIEWER: Did they still remain in the bush?

WITNESS: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know where you left them?

WITNESS: Well my brother I cannot tell. I cannot understand. At the time those guys went and attacked us in the bush, I cannot tell you, I cannot understand. The things that happened there, maybe, except you find another way to understand that.

CHEESEMAN: When asked why the contradiction in his testimonies and the interview, Mr Fofana said he was not in a right frame of mind when the interview was conducted. He maintained that his three children were burnt to death.

The 77th witness, whose left hand was amputated, later took the stand. Mr. Gibril Sesay said in his presence eight of the rebels raped his wife and later stabbed her to death on the order of Staff Alhaji. Mr. Sesay said Staff Alhaji divided the civilians into three groups. He said the first group was put in a house and set ablaze. The witness testified that civilians in the second group were slaughtered with knives and the third group was amputated. Mr. Sesay said his childhood friend, Staff Alhaji, chopped his left hand eleven times and finally cut it off. Mr. Sesay is now on cross-examination, and Defence lawyer Courtney Griffiths is expected to continue with Mr. Sesay's cross-examination on Wednesday.

Charlestaylortrial.org

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

3rd Session: Cross-Examination of 76th Prosecution Witness Gibril Sesay Commences

Prosecution Counsel Christopher Santora continued his examination in chief and established the following. The witness accompanied Kamara to Small Sefadu. Then Sesay returned to his wife and children under the mango tree. His wife was preparing food behind the school.

Burning, rape, murder and amputation

Suddenly there was gunfire all over the town of Penduema, his children came close to Sesay. Some civilians tried to escape and were shot. Sesay did not want to leave his children behind, so he stayed with them. They were all captured by the juntas and RUF rebels. The rebels said they were waiting for their colonel. Then Staff Alhaji came from the direction of Tombodu. The witness recognised Alhaji because they grew up together in Kono. The witness greeted Alhaji but he did not respond. A junior commander slapped Sesay because he called Alhaji by his first name. Then the witness said down and kept quiet. The civilians had to stand in different lines. He was in a line of nine persons, all men. There was a line of pregnant women. The children sat close by. There was a line of non pregnant women. The wife of the witness was put among the women who were not pregnant. She was naked. Staff Alhaji was sitting on the root of a big tree. He had a staff in his hand. He used it to point at the first group. This group included a Fullah man who had an amputation in 1971 because of a car accident. This group was taken into a house and the house was set on fire by Staff Alhaji's men. The witness heard them crying and screaming. Then there was silence and the rebels came back. A bag was opened and knives came out. The rebels took one knife each. The second group was taken behind the school. Two men tried to escape and they were shot.

The throats of the others in that group were cut off. Later the witness saw their corpses so he knew how they had been killed. The group of pregnant women, the children and suckling mothers were released. Staff Alhaji pointed at the group of non pregnant women and said to his boys the women were theirs to do with what they wanted. The women, including his wife, were raped; his wife was raped by eight men. The children were sitting not far from there. After the raping two rebels, Junior and Tamba Joe, stabbed his wife to death. Some other women were also killed, others were taken along. Staff Alhaji was still sitting on the root of the tree. The witness pleaded with Staff Alhaji, as the two of them grew up together. Alhaji told the witness to wait until he would amputate his feet. After his wife was killed, Staff Alhaji ordered the feet of the witness to be tied, saying he didn't want the witness to play football again. Then Alhaji started to amputate hands and did this to two men. Alhaji ordered the feet of the witness to be untied and told the witness to take of his watch and give it to him. The witness was nervous and could not get the watch off quickly enough. Alhaji held the watch, took it forcefully from the wrist and the watch broke.

The witness still has a mark on his wrist as a result from this and the witness showed this mark on his arm to the Court. Alhaji took up the machete from his back and wanted to amputate him, but the witness removed his hand. Then Alhaji hit him on his forehead with the machete. The witness showed the mark on his forehead to the Court. Alhaji was furious and the witness put his left hand down. Alhaji hacked the hand of the witness eleven times and the hand came off and fell to the ground. The witness left but then came back for his hand, as he thought the hand could be attached to his arm again. When he reached down to pick up the hand Alhaji hit him on the back with his cutlass. The witness showed the Court the mark on his back. His children witnessed their mother's rape and killing and their father's amputation. Alhaji said that the hand belonged to him, Alhaji, and told the witness to go to Pa Kabbah and ask for a hand, because Kabbah had a lot of those. The witness left but after a short distance he fell down. His children tried to help him up, but failed. Alhaji's boys were laughing. His children urged him to get up, which he did, but a

little further he fell down again. He got up again for the second time, he was in serious pain and left for Small Penduema. He passed Penduema Barracks, here he fell down again. He was bleeding profusely. There he was found by ECOMOG and taken in a vehicle to Koikuima hospital. He spent three days there together with other amputees, including Mohamed S. Kamara. From there he went to Makeni Hospital. Then they drove him and others to Freetown, to Connaught hospital. Medecins Sans Frontières was there and a female doctor operated him.

How his life was affected

Gibril Sesay stated: “It affected my life in a very bad way. It has installed very serious worries into my heart. No matter how I dress up, I always look awkward amongst my other fellow human beings. For this reason I say, war is not good for any country. I am talking to the international community to stop war all over Africa. This is not going to help. For my girl children, if I had died, they would have become prostitutes to support themselves. I can no longer do the job of mining. Sierra Leone used to be a peaceful country. When I was small it was a peaceful country. They moved me back and forth because of this war. I plead to the international people to help prevent this from ever happening again.”

Cross-examination

Lead Defense Counsel Courtenay Griffiths cross-examined the witness and began by saying that he agreed with the witness’s sentiments. War is horrible and the witness suffered immensely from it. Griffiths said he was not here to suggest that these terrible things have not happened, but added that he is saying that Sesay has embellished his story, meaning, there is a core of truth in it, but things have been added to his account. The witness denied this and maintained he had told the truth in Court. Griffiths established the following.

Time frame of atrocities committed by the junta

Sesay grew up in Kono District and in 1991 was still living there. Between the beginning of the war in 1991 and the coup in May 1997 his life was affected by the war, but not to a great extent: there was no freedom of movement. Sesay agreed that things did not get difficult until 1998. From statements that Sesay gave to the Prosecution Griffiths established that from May 1997 the junta took gravel from civilians in Kono, but that the raping and looting actually only took place during a three month period from February to April 1998. The witness agreed that prior to 1998 houses were not being burnt, however in Court the witness stated that he knew of one case that a house was burnt.

Atrocities committed by the Kamajors

In Koidu the civilians were tired of the junta and the rebels and their raping and looting: the chiefs and some Lebanese collected money to pay the Kamajors to come and chase the junta and RUF out of Koidu. And they did chase them out. Griffiths compared the situation to getting from the frying pan into the fire: the Kamajors treated people just as badly. The witness agreed. The Kamajors put up a big pot where they killed, cooked and ate human beings. In one statement Sesay said that during those two or three weeks the Kamajors killed 15 people and sometimes ate their livers raw. Sesay confirmed this and said that the junta and the RUF did not commit this particular form of atrocity. The witness confirmed he was shocked when he saw Kamajors doing this and agreed that the civilians had to pay the Kamajors with money and food as a form of tax. After the two, three week period the Kamajors were driven out of Koidu by commander Akim and his men and the junta and RUF once more were installed in Koidu.

Who abducted the sister?

In a previous statement it was written that the witness had said that lieutenant Jalloh abducted the 16 year old sister of the witness. Sesay said that this account is not true. Lieutenant Jalloh wanted to abduct his sister, but Sesay quarrelled with him and was able to prevent Jalloh from abducting his sister. The ten girls that were abducted and were in the land rover were not from Wendadu, but from other villages. It was Captain Barbureh who later abducted his sister. Sesay did not know how this mistake came into the statement and agreed that most of what is written in the paragraph was wrong.

Who was a soldier in the SLA?

Griffiths read a statement to the witness where Sesay said that he knew Staff Alhaji, who was in the SLA from 1975, while he himself was in the SLA in 1977. They were both in the SLA until 1990. The witness testified in Court that this was a wrong statement and that not he, Gibril Sesay, was in the SLA, but his brother RSM Maxwell Sesay. Maxwell was his elder brother and is no longer alive. Sesay confirmed again that he did not say he was a soldier and that the statement was not correct.

Present position of Staff Alhaji

The witness agreed that Staff Alhaji was a wicked man and responsible for many horrible things: the things he did or ordered to be done to the witness and his family as well as to many other people. The witness is aware that in 2004/2005 this same Staff Alhaji was still serving in the Sierra Leonean Army and that as far as he knows Alhaji is still in the SLA.

Whereabouts of the family during amputation

Griffiths took Sesay over his testimony given today in Court about the situation during his amputation. Sesay maintained that his hand was amputated in Penduema, and that he and his children witnessed his wife being raped and murdered and that his children were present during his amputation. Griffiths took the witness to a statement where it is written that the witness said that he took off his watch and gave it to Staff Alhaji. The witness maintained that the watch was ripped off his arm and that the statement is not correctly reflecting this detail.

Griffiths took the witness to an interview with the Prosecution where the witness was shown a video. The witness identified himself as being in the video. Griffiths read from a transcript of what the witness said in the video: Sesay took Kamara to Small Sefadu. When he returned he could not find his family. He left and later met Staff Alhaji who amputated him. He fell into a stream which woke him up and he drank from the water. He went to ECOMOG. Up until that moment he had not seen his wife and children. At the bottom of the statement Sesay declared that the statement was accurate and true. When asked which was the true account, Sesay answered it was the testimony he gave in Court today that reflected the truth of the events that happened.

At this moment in cross-examination Court is adjourned at 4.30 p.m. until 9.30 a.m. tomorrow when the video will be shown in Court.

BBC World Service Trust

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Raped, forced to eat human flesh, injected with cocaine, made to commit murder

Written by Mariama Khai Fornah

A young Sierra Leonean woman captured by rebels during the January 6, 1999 invasion of Freetown has testified to being raped, forced to eat human flesh, injected with cocaine, and made to commit unlawful killing.

Testifying at the trial of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor at the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone sitting in The Hague, Akiatu Tholley said she escaped to safety with an unwanted pregnancy.

She identified her captor as Colonel James of the former Liberian rebel group, ULIMO. The prosecution witness said that Kamajor civil militiamen killed in battle by the rebels were cooked and sometimes made into barbecue and given to civilians as meal. She said she reluctantly participated in eating the heart of a Kamajor.

Prosecution Lawyer Brenda Hollis asked the witness what happened to those who refused to eat the rebels' human meal to which she replied, "if anybody refused eating it, that person would be killed". She said when she initially refused to eat it they beat her up and threatened to kill her. Akiatu said that Captain James, the rebel who captured her in Wellington in the east of Freetown, forced her into marriage.

The witness said she attempted to escape but was captured by some rebel boys. Her rebel husband boiled marijuana and gave it to her and injected her with cocaine and was sent on mission with some rebel boys and she unwillingly shot and killed a woman because she refused to join them, Akiatu told the court. They kidnapped the slain woman's two children to carry their loads for them to Masiaka, outside Freetown.

The witness said that two women who attempted to escape were recaptured, tied, and marked on their breasts the letters "AFRC and RUF", using a razor blade. Under cross-examination, Akiatu confirmed that cannibalism was common among the rebels. She lamented that the rebels destroyed her future and that she suffered three miscarriages, and was forced to eat human flesh - something as a Muslim she would never forget. Akiatu said despite Issa Sesay's warning to the rebels not to loot and rape, they looted and raped with impunity.

Courtesy: BBC World Service Trust

United Nations  Nations Unies

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

**UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries
28 October 2008**

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

Newspaper Summary

US Peace Corps Back in Liberia

(New Democrat, The Analyst)

- Twelve American Peace Corps volunteers have been sworn-in at a ceremony witnessed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Monrovia.
- Administering the oath of service Monday, Peace Corps Director Ronald Tschetter expressed the hope that their contribution will help enhance the country's development programs and further strengthen the ties between the two countries.
- Speaking at the programme, President Sirleaf described the return of the volunteers as timely saying their contribution is crucial to developing a robust educational programme.
- The volunteers will take up assignments in rural Liberia and other parts of the country with a focus on the educational sector of the country including the rural teachers training institutes, agriculture, as well as midwifery training programs in South-eastern Liberia.

Armed Robbers Attack GSA Community Again - Residents Call For Regular Police Patrol

(The News)

- [sic] Armed robbers have attacked the GSA Road community in Paynesville again triggering fear among the residents. Eyewitnesses said that about eight men armed with AK-47 rifles, cutlasses and other dangerous weapons attacked several homes about 2:00 Sunday morning. The eyewitnesses said the armed robbers attempted to break into some homes but failed due to the steel doors erected on most homes as well as heavy resistance from aggressive barking dogs. One of the eyewitnesses explained that the robbers fled the scene when they saw the vehicle of the Emergency Respond Unit (ERU) heading in their direction. Our source said after the armed men fled the GSA Road community, they went behind the YMCA Rock Hole community where they attempted breaking into homes but were again confronted by hostile dogs and residents. A mother of five quoted the robbers as saying that they would shoot to death anyone who attempted to hinder their mission.
- Meanwhile, residents are calling on the Liberian National Police (LNP) to carry out regular night patrols in the area. It can be recalled that on October 2, 2005, armed robbers shot and killed a student from the University of Liberia and wounded several others at the GSA Road Rock Hole community.

Senior Liberian Journalist claims UP-led Government Not Inclusive – But Colleague differs

(Heritage, The Inquirer, The News)

- Testifying before Liberia's Truth Commission on Monday, a senior Liberian journalist, Philip N. Wesseh, claims that the formation of the government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf does not reflect political diversities, perceiving that the President only appointed people based on their support to her during her struggle for political leadership. But another media executive, Tom Kamara, disagreed with Wesseh, saying inclusiveness is not a realization for government in the Liberian setting. Kamara thinks people should be concerned about holding the government accountable on the basis of its platform.

Liberia Hosts Sea Rescue Center for Five Sub-Regional States

(Daily Observer, New Democrat)

- A Maritime Centre for coordinating sea rescue for people in distress for five West African countries is said to be nearing completion in Monrovia.
- The Bureau of Maritime Affairs says over 80 percent of renovation work at the West African Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Liberia has been completed.
- The centre when functional will jointly be used by the Bureau and the Defense Ministry to properly execute search and rescue operations in the region.
- A Maritime Bureau spokesman said when completed the facility will house the National Coast Guard Administration, Maritime related emergency equipment and a helicopter landing pad.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 9:45 am)*

Liberia Hosts Regional Sea Rescue Centre

(Also reported on Star Radio, Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Justice Ministry Introduces New Measures for Judicial Reform

- The Justice Ministry says it has put in place new measures for judicial reforms to reflect government's poverty reduction strategy.
- Speaking at the cabinet retreat in Kakata at the weekend, Justice Minister, Counsellor Philip Banks said the ministry has set up a team to investigate inmates at the Monrovia Central prison for crimes they committed.
- He said in collaboration with the judiciary branch they ministry is considering speedy trial of alleged criminals at the central prison.

Star Radio *(News monitored today at 9:00 am)*

U.S. City Developers Delegation Arrives

- A two-member U.S. City Development delegation has arrived in the country.
- The group represents several American Urban Planning, Designing, Engineering, Telecommunications, Waste Management and Investment companies.
- The Chairman of the Monrovia City Council Mr. Daniel Johnson said the delegation is in the country to conduct a week-long assessment of urban development needs of the City of Monrovia.
- Mr. Johnson indicated the U.S. delegation would hold talks with key stakeholders on possibilities to attract American and other Urban investors and developers.

American Peace Corps Resume Operations in Liberia

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

WHO Researches Tropical Disease in Liberia

- The World Health Organization says it has launched the "phase three clinical trial" for Moxidectin in Tropical Disease Research in Liberia.
- Moxidectin is being tested as an alternative effective drug for the treatment of river blindness.
- River blindness is reported to be increasingly affecting people in the West African region.
- According to WHO Country Representative Dr. Nestor Ndayimirije, the goal of the research is to interrupt the transmission or eradicate the disease.
- Dr. Ndayimirije disclosed that a mini-research facility containing examination rooms and laboratories is nearing completion in Lofa County for the trial.
- WHO is working along with the Liberia Institute for Biomedical Research (LIBR) and the Democratic Republic of Congo to do the research.
- Meanwhile, WHO have donated three vehicles and equipment to LIBR exclusively for the research and also donated a consignment of assorted drugs and other equipment to the Ministry of Health to help improve the health care delivery system.

Truth F.M. *(News monitored today at 10:00 am)*

Liberia Declared Polio-Free State

- The World Health Organization has declared Liberia a polio free country.
- Liberia's certification as a polio-free nation followed its improvement in its immunization programme from 30 to 80 percent throughout the country.
- Speaking to reporters Monday at the Robert International Airport, the Chairman of the National Polio Certification Committee, Dr. Peter Coleman said despite the achievement more needs to be done.
- Dr. Coleman said Liberia was still threatened from people coming into the country from areas where polio has not been eradicated completely.

Associated Press

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

US trial in alleged Liberian torture wrapping up

By CURT ANDERSON

MIAMI (AP) — The son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor conducted a brutal campaign of torture and killings as chief of a notorious security unit known in the war-torn west African nation as the "Demon Forces," a prosecutor said Tuesday in closing arguments of the son's U.S. trial.

The monthlong trial of Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., is the first test of a 1994 law allowing the prosecution of U.S. citizens and others for alleged acts of torture and abuse committed overseas.

Emmanuel, born in Boston in 1977 while Taylor was a university student there, shot at least three victims and ordered dozens of others tortured because they were perceived to be rebels or other threats to his father's government, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Rochlin.

Jurors heard from several victims and witnesses who said Emmanuel, 31, either committed torture and killings himself or ordered others to do so between 1999 and 2002 as head of Taylor's Antiterrorist Unit. Many were brought before President Taylor at the official Whiteflower residence in Monrovia, Liberia, and accused of being rebels.

The African witnesses recounted harrowing tales of being burned with molten plastic, lit cigarettes, candles and electrical devices. They also testified to being stabbed with bayonets, bitten by ants shoveled on their bodies and imprisoned for weeks in small water-filled pits covered by iron bars and barbed wire.

"The defendant acted with specific intent to cause severe pain and suffering," Rochlin told the jury.

Emmanuel's attorney said some of the victims who testified were opponents of the ex-president's government who might have been motivated by a political vendetta. Others, he suggested, would say anything to escape Liberia and win political asylum in the U.S., Europe or Canada.

"They all have a strong motive to get out of west Africa, to better the lives of their families and themselves," public defender Miguel Caridad said. "My client has not been proven guilty of anything."

The former president is currently on trial at a special U.N.-backed court in the Netherlands on charges of orchestrating violence in neighboring Sierra Leone's bloody civil war, which ended in 2002. Many of the victims in Emmanuel's case were refugees from Sierra Leone who were opponents of Taylor's forces there.

Jurors were scheduled to begin deliberations Wednesday. Emmanuel faces a possible life sentence if convicted.

Emmanuel is being tried in Miami because he arrived at the airport in March 2006 from Trinidad carrying a U.S. passport he obtained after falsifying his father's name on an application. Emmanuel pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 11 months in that case, claiming at a sentencing hearing that the torture case is a politically motivated attempt "to make me pay for being the son" of the former president.

Elise Keppler, senior counsel at Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program, said the Miami trial is a critical forum for West African abuses to become known. No tribunal exists in Liberia to prosecute past crimes during some 14 years of conflict.

"Chuckie Taylor's trial for torture is hugely important for victims in Liberia," Keppler said. "This is one of the few prosecutions to date for atrocities committed during Liberia's wars."

The News (Monrovia)

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

“Taylor Ransacked, Looted Media Houses”

By Alloycious David

The publisher of the New Democrat Newspaper, Tom Kamara said former President Charles Taylor ransacked and looted media institutions during the April 6, 1996 street battle in Monrovia.

Appearing at a Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) special thematic and institutional hearings for the media, Mr. Kamara said Taylor as Vice Chairman of the National Transitional Government threatened physical attacks on media personnel who failed to report in his favor.

He said former President Taylor succeeded in destroying media institutions that he hated.

“Taylor ransacked and looted media institutions including Star Radio, Radio Veritas and my paper, the New Democrat in 1996 when he and Alhaja Kromah teamed up against the ethnic Krahn.”

“Taylor threatened on air to deal with the media...it was a censorship on the media,” Mr. Kamara told the hearing.

He also explained that the Liberian media was divided during the civil war with one group based behind Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) controlled areas and the other in Monrovia.

He said those behind NPFL line “were there because of what they were getting... they supported Taylor’s actions through the broadcast.”

Mr. Kamara said there was freedom of the press in Monrovia, adding that journalists reported freely without harassment.

He said journalists behind Taylor’s controlled area or ‘Greater Liberia,’ used a looted transmitter to report lies about how ECOMOG soldiers were engaged in Massacre and other killings.

He also recollected how he refused to change the name of Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) to Radio Liberty when an ECOMOG information officer suggested the change.

Mr. Kamara indicated that he was invited by former interim leader Dr. Amos Sawyer to head the Liberian media in 1990.

Mr. Kamara narrated how he was shot in his leg during battle between Prince Johnson forces and AFL soldiers in Monrovia.

He also alleged that Johnson nearly killed him on Bushrod Island where he had transferred some equipment of LBS for broadcasting purposes.

Former Press Union of Liberia (PUL) President Lamini Waritay who also provided testimony at the hearing corroborated that journalists who were behind Taylor’s line used shortwave radio to lambaste officials of the interim government and ECOMOG soldiers.

He also said journalists used the radio to insult officials of the government, adding “they insulted our mother...I hope you can call them here.”

Mr. Waritay indicated that as Information Minister under the interim government of Dr. Sawyer, he used an FM radio acquired to promote peace messages and educated NPFL fighters that ECOMOG was not their enemies.

He disclosed that the interim government allowed the NPFL to operate a newspaper, The Patriot, from Monrovia, an opportunity the interim government or journalists in Monrovia never had.

Mr. Waritay said prior to the civil war, journalists were arrested and detained without trial during the regime of the People’s Redemption Council (PRC) headed by the late Samuel K. Doe for articles they wrote or broadcast

The Liberian Journal

Sunday, 26 October 2008

Confirmation of the Commission of War Crimes and Torture in the Republic of Liberia

By: Affidavit/Position Statement (Association of Liberian Lawyers)

The Association of Liberian Lawyers in the Americas, Inc. (ALLA) is a non-profit international professional Organization founded on August 30, 2006, in the United States of America. ALLA is comprised of over 100 attorneys of the Liberian National and the Supreme Court Bars Associations who are lawfully living and working in the United States of America. Our approach and programmatic for Liberia is to:

- 1) Strengthen the Rule of Law;
- 2) Protect Human Rights;
- 3) Promote Justice and Equality before the Law;
- 4) Promote Economic Justice and Human Advancement; and
- 5) Promote Democracy and Development.

The Republic of Liberia is a West African Country that gained its independence on July 26, 2008. Primarily, Liberia was founded by the help of the American Colonization Society, (ACS). Sadly, from 1847 to 1980, the Republic of Liberia was ruled as a one-party state. During these years, Liberia suffered from violations of the rule of law and human rights which hindered justice and equality before the law, economic justice, and democracy and development.

Due to the political and social situation, Liberians and residents of Liberia were forced into a brutal armed conflict that is credited with the destruction of over 250, 000 lives and much property. This conflict caused over 500,000 Liberians and residents of Liberia to flee the Republic of Liberia and to take refuge in other African countries, Europe, Canada, and the United States of America. To date, there are over 35,000 Liberian refugee and immigrant families legitimately living and working in the United States of America.

Also being victims and survivors of the armed conflict, we are writing to attest and confirm that from December 24, 1989 to August 2003, the warlords and their collaborators without any respect for human rights and human dignity were reported to have massively and indiscriminately committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and systematically tortured Liberians and residents of Liberia in their so-called control areas in the Republic of Liberia. Whether it was in Nimba, Bong, Bomi, Lofa, and/or Sinoe Counties, warlords, Charles G. Taylor, Prince Y. Johnson, Alijhi G.V. Kromah and George S. Boley and their followers are reported to have consistently and fearlessly committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and torture in the Republic of Liberia.

Directly under their supervision and coordination, Mr. Charles G. Taylor, Prince Y. Johnson, Alijhi G.V. Kromah, George S. Boley, Seokou Konneh, and Thomas Y. Nimely, were noted to have committed criminal offenses against women, men, children, and the elderly such as rape, extra-judicial killings, and reportedly burned alive to death some of their captives, and tortured daily and publicly their victims. Acting contrary to the rule of law, the laws of war, and international human rights law, these warlord and

their commanding officers are accused to have publicly and intentionally shot and killed their captives or victims, which in most cases were innocent women, men, children, and the elderly in the Republic of Liberia.

These warmongers are said to have usually raped, burned alive to death their victims, and indiscriminately targeted and shot freely at civilians and in civilian populated areas. Towns, villages, schools, and religious premises were targeted and burned down. Under the National Patriotic Front, (NPFL); Independent National Patriotic Front, (INPFL); Liberians United for Liberation and Democracy, (ULIMO); Liberia Peace Council, (LPC), Liberians United for Reconstruction and Democracy, (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia, (MODEL), peace-loving citizens, residents, and noncombatants that encountered any of these warlords and their commanding officers, were either beaten, tortured, and summarily executed.

The NPFL, led by Mr. Charles G. Taylor, former rebel commander, and former President of the Republic of Liberia, represented the largest of all the rebel forces in Liberia. During the war and while Mr. Taylor was still the elected President of the Republic of Liberia, he owned and operated many loose Units of his NPFL Army. These Units operated at secret military bases that recruited children, raped women, beat, and tortured their victims and even burned their perceived enemies to death. Mr. Charles Chuckie Taylor, Jr. visibly was the commanding officer of the Anti-Terrorist Unit, (ATU); Sons of the Devil, (SOD). The ATU and the SOD were created extra-statutorily and extra-constitutionally and operated fearlessly and ruthlessly throughout the Republic of Liberia. The ATU and SOD were actually feared by Liberians and residents of Liberia because they usually tortured and killed anyone Mr. Charles G. Taylor considered his enemy.

Later, for reasons best known to Mr. Charles G. Taylor, the ATU and SOD split up into two separate, but coordinated groups. ATU then remained the elite army and the most supported personally by Mr. Charles G. Taylor. The SOD or Sons of the Devil was delivered to and deposited at the Liberia National Police Headquarters. Mr. Charles Chuckie Taylor, Jr., was then selected and handpicked by his Father, Charles G. Taylor as the commanding officer of the ATU. Mr. Saad H. Gbollie, commanded the SOD until he was appointed deputy Director of Police for Administration. Mr. Charles G. Taylor usually used the ATU and SOD jointly to commit war crimes and to torture and kill his so-called enemies.

As commanding officer, Mr. Charles Churckie Taylor, Jr. operated the ATU directly from the notorious Gbatala base, Bong County; although he stationed pocket ATU bases all over the city of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia. The Gbatala base accounted for nearly all of the military trainings, and housed most of the big guns used by Mr. Charles G. Taylor. The Gbalata base was also Mr. Taylor's arms storage and supplied center. At best, the Gbatala base was also the centralized torture chamber and extra-judicial killing center for Mr. Charles G. Taylor. As commanding officer of ATU and SOD, Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. was responsible to arrest, detain, beat, and torture to death anyone that his father, Mr. Charles G. Taylor wanted to have tortured and put to death. It is widely held and believed in Liberia that Mr. Ermond Dogolea, the late former Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, the man elected with Mr. Charles G. Taylor was arrested by Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. and some members of the ATU and Special Security Service (SSS) from his home, taken to the Gbatala base, beaten, tortured and killed by Charles C. Taylor, Jr. and his ATU men on orders of Mr. Charles G. Taylor, Sr., former President of the Republic of Liberia.

Like Mr. Saad H. Gbollie, now a member of the House of Representative of the Republic of Liberia, Mr. Charles Chuckie Taylor, Jr. was the highest commanding military officer in the Republic of Liberia. The ATU and SOD that he headed as the commandeering officer took no orders from the Armed Forces of Liberia; though former President Charles G. Taylor represented to the world that ATU was only a unit of the AFL. Orders to arrest, beat, detain, torture, and kill political enemies were handed down directly from

Mr. Charles G. Taylor, Sr. to his Son, Charles Chuckie Taylor, Jr. ALLA submits and says that Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. is an elite commanding officer and agent of death and torture in Liberia. Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. is still the commander-in- chief of ATU and SOD, even up today's date in Liberia.

Although ATU and SOD no longer exist, most of the men and women that Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. commanded in the Republic of Liberia in the ATU and SOD are still alive, well, and ready to act on the orders of Mr. Charles Chuckie Taylor, Jr., their supreme commanding officer. Mr. Saad H. Gbollie, Edwin Melvin Snowe, John T. Richardson, Benini Urey, and General James Coo Coo Dennis, Mr. Charles G. Taylor's trusted lieutenants in Liberia, still hold high respect and commitment to Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. Let it be known that Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. still has followers in and outside of Liberia. Above all else, Charles Churkie Taylor, Jr. is still feared by Liberians and residents of Liberia. He is extremely rich and could always use his looted money to put peace and security at risk in the Republic of Liberia and even in the whole Western African Region of Africa.

As we bring this Affidavit to a close, we prayerfully mourn the deaths of all Liberians and residents of Liberia, students, men, women, and the elderly who were publicly and extra-judicially murdered in Liberia, and on Sept 18, 1998, on Camp Johnson Road, City of Monrovia and other parts of Monrovia. Let the innocent souls of the Liberians and residents of Liberia rest in peace as Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr. gains and recovers the benefit of the rule of law and justice for offenses he is alleged to have committed in Liberia.

ALLA submits and says that by trying, and eventually convicting, and sentencing Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr., imprisoning him for life without any benefit to escape, will bring closure to victims and survivors whom Mr. Charles Chuckie Taylor, Jr., arrested, beat, tortured, and put to death extra-judicially in the Republic of Liberia.

Mr. Charles C. Taylor, Jr., is still a threat to Liberia, and threat to international peace and security.

Done this 10th day of October, A.D. 2008 in the City and County of Denver, Colorado, USA.

Respectfully submitted by:

Association of Liberian Lawyers in the Americas, Inc. (ALLA),

By and Thru Frederick A.B. Jayweh, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2008, by:

Counsellor Frederick A.B. Jayweh, Executive Director ALLA

Witnessed under my hand and official Seal _____; My Commission expires effective: _____

NOTARY PUBLIC

Editor's Note: This Position Statement is published as submitted. The Liberian Journal is not responsible for any errors, legal or grammatical. The views expressed in this statement are those of the author(s) alone. They do not represent the views or opinions of The Liberian Journal or its staff.